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charge of mosquito-control work in the district under the company's jurisdiction. All drains were cleaned of vegetation as far as possible; but it was found that the work of keeping the drains in good condition was expensive, owing to the luxuriant growth of vegetation during the rainy season and the scouring action of the tropical rains, eroding the sides and bottoms of the drains. Crude-oil spray was used on pools, but was not found satisfactory as the film was broken up by the wind and rainfall.

Finally an ingenious and successful method was devised of lining the sides and bottoms of the drains in a manner that prevented the growth of vegetation and resisted the scouring action of the heavy rains. The method was as follows:

The drain was cleaned of vegetable matter, and liquid asphalt was poured on the sides and bottom. Sand was then sifted over the asphalt, about 1 cubic foot to 8 square yards. A piece of oily waste was placed at one end of the drain and ignited. Oil was then sprayed on by means of a hand pump as the fire spread along the course of the drain, the liquid asphalt burning with intense heat. The heating of the liquid asphalt and sand to a high temperature gave a hard asphalt wearing surface on the sides and bottom of the drain.

The work of lining the drains is done during the dry season.

The approximate cost of lining is $14\frac{1}{2}$ to 20 cents per square yard.

The benefits derived from the drains made by the improved method are shown in the great reduction in the malaria rate, which dropped, in the districts in which the work was done, from 798 per 1,000 employees in 1920 to 265 in 1921. In the village of La Brea, over which the asphalt company has no control, the malaria case rate was 602 in 1920 and 590 in 1921, a slight reduction in 1921, which may or may not have resulted from the work done in the other localities.

MALARIA INCIDENCE AMONG THE EMPLOYEES OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

In view of the fact that there have appeared recently in the public press, inaccurate statements regarding the incidence of malaria among the employees of the Panama Canal, there is printed below a table giving the monthly incidence rates for the years 1918-1921, and for January to July, 1922. The data were furnished by the chief quarantine officer of the Panama Canal.

Malaria incidence (monthly rates) per 1,000 employees of the Panama Canal.

Month.	Year.				
	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
January.....	2.53	2.95	2.62	1.52	1.08
February.....	2.54	3.57	1.51	1.21	1.29
March.....	2.03	4.34	1.57	1.19	.56
April.....	2.24	1.66	.22	.37	.28
May.....	1.86	2.72	.36	.72	1.65
June.....	1.50	3.53	2.44	1.69	1.96
July.....	1.66	7.04	1.97	1.89	2.21
August.....	1.93	3.15	2.75	1.87
September.....	.98	2.08	2.31	1.13
October.....	.76	1.03	2.36	1.01
November.....	1.51	1.48	1.25	.88
December.....	3.40	2.00	1.17	1.37

HEALTH OFFICER LIABLE FOR INCONSIDERATE TREATMENT OF PATIENT REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Supreme Court of Kansas has recently affirmed a judgment for actual and punitive damages against a local health officer for inhuman and inconsiderate treatment of a patient quarantined in an isolation hospital.¹ The patient brought an action for damages against the health officer, charging that official with gross and wanton negligence and carelessness in the performance of his duties. The supreme court in its opinion stated as follows:

A health officer, while required to obey his lawful orders and perform his official duty, is never excused for wanton conduct and inhuman treatment to patients suffering from serious illness, * * *.

* * * Of course, in removing her he [the health officer] was acting in a governmental capacity, but persons who act in that capacity are required to treat other human beings in a reasonably humane and considerate manner. The law no less than humanity requires humane and decent treatment of those who must be segregated from their usual conveniences and friends, and whoever acts with utter disregard of this requirement renders himself liable. * * *.

DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 2, 1922.

Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended September 2, 1922, and corresponding week 1921. (From the Weekly Health Index, September 6, 1922, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)

	Week ended Sept. 2, 1922.	Corresponding week 1921.
Policies in force.....	50, 246, 953	46, 081, 835
Number of death claims.....	7, 043	6, 270
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force, annual rate.....	7.3	7.1

¹ Moody v. Wickersham, 207 Pac. 847.